

Energy Cutbacks Urged by Nixon

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cutting back energy consumption 5 per cent means a cold winter, the Nixon administration says.

It means going easier on the gas pedal, avoiding "jackrabbit starts" and 70-mile-per-hour speeds on the highways. Or keeping the house darker at night and repairing leaky faucets.

There are some of the energy-saving measures suggested by a key administration energy official, Deputy Treasury Secretary William E. Simon, chairman of President Nixon's Oil Policy Committee.

Nixon urged Americans on June 29 to reduce their personal energy usage by five per cent, but suggested only a few ways how this could be achieved.

At a reporter's request, Simon asked his staff to prepare a list of ways that the average American could save energy. The compilation centered around energy conservation in the home.

For example, raising the thermostat of home air conditioners by 4 degrees will save 15 to 20 per cent in electricity, the list says. In the winter-time, dropping the thermostat four degrees can save 10 per cent in electricity.

Or, "use fans rather than air conditioning," it says.

Better insulation also will help. The list suggests 6 inches or more insulation in ceilings and 4 inches or more in walls. It also says to caulk or weatherstrip windows and close the curtains when the air conditioning is on in the summer and furnace operating in the winter.

The list suggests turning off all appliances and lights that are not needed and buying electric appliances that use less electricity.

What was meant by appliances that use less electricity was not explained, but one of-

ficial said, for example, that frost-free refrigerators use more electricity than refrigerators without that convenience.

Other suggestions included reducing electric power use during peak demand periods of late afternoon and early evening; keeping heating and air conditioning equipment in good condition; removing dust from registers and ducts, and replacing and cleaning filters.

Or, repairing leaky faucets, especially hot-water faucets; using a humidifier on the furnace in the winter; making more efficient use of appliances, like washing clothes only when there is a full load.

Automobile drivers could reduce their speed from 70 to 50 miles per hour and save 20 to 25 per cent in gasoline, the list said.

Also, the engine should be kept tuned, the tires properly inflated, and the engine should be warmed up before driving. Another suggestion was not to let the engine idle for more than 45 seconds.

Multigrade engine oil should be used because it allows an engine to operate more efficiently, according to the list. And, naturally, the car air conditioning should be used less.

"Buy cars more economical in gasoline use," because the list said. More economical cars can save 1,000 gallons of gasoline a year or \$400.

Businessmen should reduce their trips and housewives should combine shopping trips.

In addition, as Nixon suggested in his message to Congress; the list said many Americans could avail themselves of public transportation or use car pools to commute to work.